

## Prepare for Brexit – October 2020

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Prepare for Brexit document created specifically for the potato sector. Further documents will be produced monthly in the run up to the end of the transition period.

The purpose of the document is to inform the industry of the immediate actions to be taken prior to the end of the transition period. The document details the first steps to consider when importing or exporting potatoes to the EU beyond the end of the transition period. However, it must be stressed that several issues are the subject of ongoing negotiations with the EU and are currently unresolved.

The UK left the European Union at the beginning of 2020 and in January 2021 the transition period will end and our new relationship with the EU will begin.

The end of the transition period will bring significant changes regardless of whether agreement on future relations is reached. Come 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, the UK will no longer be part of the EU's Single Market and Customs Union and will become a "3rd Country" (a non-EU member state).

Since the EU Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 currently excludes the import of potatoes into member states from all "3rd countries", other than those specifically listed within these regulations, exports of potatoes from the UK to the EU will, unless the goods are already in transit, not be allowed after the end of the transition period.

The information contained within this document is intended to assist, rather than act as a definitive legal guide. It is based upon current knowledge and understanding. If in doubt, refer to official government publications and to specialist advisors.

### Importing and exporting considerations

To continue importing or exporting products between the UK and EU you **must**:

- Get a UK Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number.
  - <https://www.gov.uk/eori>
- Decide if you want to hire an import-export agent or make declarations yourself.
  - <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-export-from-great-britain-from-january-2021>
  - <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-to-import-to-great-britain-from-january-2021>
- Contact the organisation that moves your goods to find out what information they need to make the declarations for your goods, or if you will need to make them yourself.
- It will only be possible to trade UK potatoes in the EU post transition period, without the UK having been granted equivalence, '**only if they are already in the EU before the end of the transition period, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**'. Therefore, consider exporting potatoes destined for the EU prior to this date.

## Importing considerations

- **Importing plants and plant products from the EU from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**  
High-priority plants and plant products from the EU must have:
  - a phytosanitary certificate (PC)
  - a pre-notification submitted by the importer in England, Scotland or Wales
  - documentary and identity checks
  - a physical inspection
- Consider whether imported plant goods qualify as “high risk” – these will be subject to full import controls from January 2021. A definitive list is not yet available, but “high risk” goods are likely to include plants-for planting, seeds and potatoes-for-eating. Other plant goods will be subject to border controls from April 2021
- Obtain appropriate phytosanitary certificates for each shipment from authorities in the exporting countries. These documents specify that goods have been inspected, are free from biological risk and conform to UK requirements. Most plants and plant products need a certificate, except for certain tropical species and plants which form part of processed foods
- Give notice to UK authorities of all incoming shipments. Minimum notice of 4 hours for air freight or 24 hours for all other transport modes
- The guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-plants-and-plant-products-from-1-january-2021> currently refers to using the relevant IT system to notify the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) of the regulated plants and plant products being imported. The guidance on which IT system will be in place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will be updated and published accordingly.
- Prepare for physical and document checks by UK authorities. Initially, these will take place away from the UK border, usually at the UK destination. From July 2021, all checks will take place at the UK order. Frequency and rigour of checks will depend on perceived risk
- Consider routes into the UK – from July 2021, all shipments must enter the UK via specified ports of entry with a Border Control Post capable of carrying out inspections

## Potatoes & Brexit – What you need to know

AHDB hosted webinars in early November to help prepare potato growers, importers and exporters for Brexit, and offer insight into what lies ahead of us in a post-Brexit world.

The first webinar on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November provided an overview of Brexit's immediate impact on the Potato sector whilst the second webinar on the 4<sup>th</sup> November focused in greater detail on the issues facing the ware and seed sectors. To listen back to the webinars please click the following links:

### Potatoes & Brexit – What you need to know

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7360320363061542667>

### Potatoes & Brexit - The impact of “no deal”

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/979450866332135947>